

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 INT-05 ACDA-12
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 JUSE-00 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01
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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 67
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS: JANUARY 18 ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON:
KUWAITI REACTION

REF: STATE 12946

1. EMBASSY LOS OFFICER SENT COPIES OF SUBJECT ADDRESS TO MFA
AND FOLLOWED UP WITH CALL ON MAN MOST INVOLVED IN LOS MATTERS,
ALI AL-SAMMAK OF MFA LEGAL DEPT. ASKED FOR GENERAL REACTION
TO THE ADDRESS, AL-SAMMAK ASSERTED THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED
WITH THE TENOR OF IT, OPINING THAT IT NOT ONLY IGNORED THE
GROUP OF 77 PAPER DEALING WITH INTERNATIONAL SEABED REGIME
(DEVELOPED IN MAY AND PRESENTED TO THE LOS CONFERENCE IN
AUG. 1977) WHICH KUWAIT FULLY SUPPORTED, BUT DID NOT MENTION
THE GROUP OF 77 NOR ITS INTERESTS. HE TERMED THE US CALL FOR
"FAIR COMPROMISE" ON SEABED MINING ISSUES AS "NOTHING NEW,"
SAYING THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD SO FAR ACHIEVED A GREAT
DEAL THROUGH "A THOUSAND COMPROMISES" AND HE EXPECTED THE
PROCESS TO CONTINUE. IN FACT, SAID AL-SAMMAK, HE WAS MORE
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OPTIMISTIC NOW THAN HE HAD BEEN LAST AUGUST IN NEW
YORK ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF SOLVING REMAINING LOS ISSUES,
DUE TO THE GROWING TENDENCY OF STATES TO EXERCISE VARIOUS
FORMS OF UNILATERAL JURISDICTION OVER THE HIGH SEAS AND
ACTIVITIES THEREIN, RESULTING IN GREATER MUTUAL AWARENESS
OF THE URGENCY WITH WHICH AN OVERALL TREATY IS NEEDED.

2. AL-SAMMAK ALSO PROFESSED TO BE DISTURBED AT THE TIMING OF THE ADDRESS, IN THAT IT STATED FIRM US POSITIONS JUST PRIOR TO THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING IN NEW YORK AND IN THE MIDST OF A NUMBER OF REGIONAL MEETINGS DEALING WITH LOS MATTERS-- THE ARAB LOS MEETING IN YEMEN THIS WEEK, THE RECENT AFRO-ASIAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING IN BAHRAIN, AND THE PLANNED LOS MEETING OF ISLAMIC NATIONS IN ANKARA (IN MARCH). HE WONDERED WHY THE US FELT THE NEED TO STATE ITS CASE SO STRONGLY NOW.

3. BY WAY OF SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THE ADDRESS, AL-SAMMAK HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY:

A. KUWAIT SUPPORTS ARTICLE 27 OF THE REVISED SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT (RSNT) CONCERNING THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL BUT KUWAIT SUPPORTS THE CONCET OF GIVING THE ASSEMBLY GREATER POWER OVER THE COUNCIL. AL-SAMMAK ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, PROVIDE A ONE-NATION ONE-VOTE FLAVOR TO THE GOVERNANCE OF THE DEEP SEABED AREA ON IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL AS WELL AS POLICY QUESTIONS. HE DID NOT SPELL OUT SUCH POWERS -- WE ASSUME THEY ARE ELABORATED IN THE GROUP OF 77 PAPER MENTIONED IN PARA. 1.

B. ON THE QUESTION OF SEA-BASED VERSUS LAND-BASED NICKEL AND COPPER PRODUCERS, KUWAIT SUPPORTS RSNT ARTICLE 9 BUT WANTS OIL AND NATURAL GAS ADDED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTS COVERED.

C. KUWAIT OPPOSES THE PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE DEEP SEABED AUTHORITY AFTER 25 YEARS, BELIEVING THAT THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO CONDUCT A CONSTANT REVIEW OF THE SEABED REGIME.

4. AL-SAMMAK SAID THAT THE GOK WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE FEBRUARY INTERSESSIONAL BY ZAIM IMAN, ADVISOR TO THE KUWAITI UN MISSION.
MAESTRONE

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